

HOUSE No. 1063

By Mr. O'Brien of Kingston, petition of Thomas J. O'Brien and others for legislation to assist school districts in reducing class size by the hiring of additional teachers. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Thomas J. O'Brien	David Paul Linsky
Bruce E. Tarr	Edward G. Connolly
Frank I. Smizik	John W. Scibak

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 15 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Offi-
2 cial Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following new
3 section:—
4 Section 66. The board of education shall establish a grant pro-
5 gram, the purpose of which is to assist school districts in reducing
6 class size by hiring additional highly qualified teachers. Said
7 grants shall be available to hire teachers for both regular and
8 special education students with special consideration for kinder-
9 garten through grade three. Said grants may be used for: recruit-
10 ment, hiring and training of certified regular or special education
11 teachers and to provide professional development for teachers.
12 Grants shall be used to supplement, not supplant, federal, state or
13 local funds for these activities. No funds may be used to increase
14 salaries or provide benefits for current teachers, other than for
15 professional development, enrichment or mentoring other
16 teachers. Districts that have already reduced class size in the early
17 grades to a ratio of 1:18 may use the funds for any of the
18 following activities: further reducing class size in kindergarten

19 through grade three; reducing class size in other grades; or,
20 improving teacher quality, including professional development.
21 Each school district receiving said grants shall annually report to
22 parents, the public and the department of education on student
23 achievement that is a direct result of hiring additional qualified
24 teachers and reducing class size.